

WHO KILLED LAWYER CARSON?

No Light Yet on the Tragedy in Chrystie Street.

Police Cite Facts to Support the Theory of Suicide.

Was it murder or suicide? This is a question which neither the police of the Eldridge street station nor the officials of the coroners office, who for the past twenty-four hours have been investigating the mysterious death of John Carson, are able to answer conclusively today.

When Carson's body was discovered, early yesterday morning, stretched out upon the sidewalk in front of the stable at 41 Chrystie street, lying in a pool of blood, the throat gashed from ear to ear, the police at once came to the conclusion that the man had been foully murdered.

This theory was strengthened by the fact that the victim was well dressed, and of respectable appearance, while the neighborhood in which the body was found was a lonely one, known to be infested at night by persons of a lawless and desperate character.

When it was learned, however, that the dead man was a penniless outcast, who had been turned away from a cheap lodging house by the police, and that he was at one time a brilliant and promising young Baltimore lawyer, who had been brought by drink and misfortune to a condition but little better than that of a common tramp, the theory of suicide was advanced.

This was rendered more plausible when the letters which were found in the dead man's pockets from his friends and relatives in Baltimore and Paterson were read, and some of his recent associates were hunted up, who told the police how Carson had lived in the lodging-house under the name of Chester, because he said that if he was ever found dead he did not want his family to know of it.

But the police say that if it was his purpose why should he have carried with him so many letters and papers, which, in such an event as he seemed to anticipate, would instantly reveal his identity.

No weapon could be found with which the act had been committed, although a long and careful search was made for it soon after the discovery of the body.

The character of the wound was such that Carson must have died almost immediately after he was cut. The cleanness of the gash showed that the instrument must have had an edge as keen as that of a razor, and all of Carson's acquaintances say they never knew him to carry a razor or a knife. He had not been shaved for several days.

These facts being brought to light, the murder theory was revived, and yet the absence of any motive on the part of an assassin who could be guilty of such ghastly work was another stumbling block in the way of clearing up the mystery which surrounds the case.

The police are all at sea so far as a conclusive explanation of the circumstances of Carson's death is concerned, and there seems at present to be no way of getting at the facts of the case.

Capt. McLaughlin, of the Eldridge street station, holds the theory of suicide.

Everything except the absence of a weapon points to the fact that Carson killed himself, said the captain today.

This, however, is not so difficult a matter to get over as might be supposed. Carson may have walked some distance after he cut himself, and then, when he was alone, he may have thrown it away at once.

In either case, considering the fact that it was very dark at the time the search was made for the weapon and that the snow was falling fast, it would have been a difficult thing to find so small an object, and it is now probably buried out of sight under the ice and snow which fills the street.

Probably it will never be found, or if it should be picked up by any of the people of that neighborhood we would never see anything of it.

SPEAKER CRISP'S PROGRESS.

Can't Preside Over the House Before Week After Next.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Speaker Crisp's condition today is somewhat better than yesterday. He dictated a dozen or more letters yesterday afternoon and will probably do some more today in his correspondence this afternoon.

He is still very weak and tired, and it is not likely that he will be able to resume work as presiding officer of the House before week after next.

ALL MUST CLOSE.

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